MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: So long as shortage occurs in a particular vallom, it carries a liability with it and Government are particular that that liability should be discharged before the vallom is released.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know, why are the owners of valloms taken to task for failure of the boat men?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Only when there is shortage in a particular vallom, the boatman in charge of that vallom is taken to task.

MR. S. SANKARANARAYANAN TAMPI: May I know whether prosecution against the owners of valloms has been started for not having paid up the value of shortages?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: No, Sir.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know, is it not a fact that prosecution has been launched against a Changanacherry boat owner to the value of Rs. 2700 for shortage found in his vallom?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: The Government have no such information.

MR. S. SANKARANARAYANAN TAMPI: Am I to take it then that the principle of vicarious liability extends to the owners of valloms?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Owners of valloms as such are not asked to pay for the shortages. But so long as the particular vallom carries with it a liability due to shortage, then the question of payment comes in.

MR. S. SANKARANARAYANAN TAMPI: May I know what the member means by liability?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: When there are shortages in a particular vallom, the boatman in charge of that vallom should pay the value of that shortage. He has therefore a liability to discharge.

MR. P. K. KUNJU (*Ambalapuzha* cum *Shertallai*): May I know how a boat owner can be made responsible for shortage?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: The boat owner as such is not made responsible for the shortage.

MR. P. K. KUNJU: But the owner may not know about that. In that case, how can you fix the liability on him?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: That is why it is stated that the owners as such are not asked to pay up the value of shortage.

MR. K. A. MAHOMED: Is it right on the part of the owners not to pay for shortages in so far as they have no knowledge of that?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: The responsibility of taking the goods in good condition rests with the boatmen.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: When the police is there to escort the valloms and if shortage is found, why not the Government proceed against the police for shortages? Why is the boat owner alone taken to task?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: It is not possible for one policeman to look after the food grains carried by the different valloms.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know, who is to meet the shortages found in the valloms; is it the boatman or boat owner or the police or all combined?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: The boatman who pilfers the grains should be taken to task.

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